

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

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NO. 47

A PITIFUL WAIL.

The newspapers of the mining districts are sending up a pitiful wail because hundreds of men are thrown out of work by the mines closing down right on the eve of winter. These papers claim not to understand the cause. The Farmington Times says:

"For some reason not clear to the outsider the lead companies of this county are laying off hands and stopping work at some of their shafts. We are informed that seven shafts have already been closed and about 600 men laid off. At this season of the year, with winter close at hand, the outlook is not cheerful to the miners or other employees who have been laid off. The companies, of course, are not giving out any information."

No; to give out information is against the rules of the game—"multiplication, division and silence." If the Times will step over to New York and drop in at the "exchange" it will be able to locate the storm center. There is no natural reason why the works should shut down and hundreds of families made to suffer.

The reason for it is entirely artificial and must be hidden from the public as loaded dice are concealed from the intended victim. By stepping over to Wall Street the Times will discover that two sets of gamblers in the products of labor are at war. On one side are the small investors who have been persuaded by alluring advertisements to invest in lead mining stock. These are scattered all over the country.

On the other side are the professional pirates of frenzied finance. These are depressing the price of the product, ordering work stopped and thus hammering the bottom out of the value of the securities they so glitteringly advertised and sold.

As the price of stocks fall they buy them in at the depressed price. The more they shut down work and mismanage the property, the more quickly will the "suckers" let go. After they have squeezed out the outsiders, then the organs of the pirates will tell of the wonderful advance in the price of lead; the same stock will again be offered the public at an advanced price, and the fool public will bite again.

When this takes place your mines will open and you will enjoy "prosperity"—until the pirates conclude to sand-bag the small investor again.

But this is what you vote for, Bro. Fisher, and you should not complain. Government ownership of the mines would put a stop to this stock-jobbery. But you don't want that. You'd rather let Simon Guggenheimer run the mines of your country.

SOMETHING WRONG.

The warden of the state penitentiary has just given out a statement in which he says that during the past two years 1,704 prisoners have been received. Among these are but two saloon-keepers and two lawyers, while 1,027 give their occupation as laborers and the remainder are from the trades.

To see that there is something wrong it is only necessary to examine that other institution located at Jefferson City known as the Capitol Building. Here another crowd is sent up from the counties to make laws. In that bunch you find just the reverse of what is true in the penitentiary. You find lawyers and saloon-keepers galore, while the laboring man is as scarce as the lawyer and saloon-keeper are in the penitentiary.

But the working people want it so—else it would be different. So long as they are willing to send the lawyers and saloon-keepers to the halls of legislation, the lawyers and saloon-keepers will not object to the laborers occupying the penitentiary.

INFORMATION WANTED.

If you want to get a lot of Democrats into a discussion that will be almost endless, propound to them the question, what is a Democrat. The knowing ones will dodge the question entirely. The longer they talk it over the less they will agree.—Bloomfield Courier.

JOHN MCWILLIAMS.

ATTORNEY AT LAW AND NOTARY.
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BENTON, MO. 81

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WHY FARMERS GET LEFT.

Carthageville has a postmaster that bids fair to earn the reputation of an anarchist and disturber. In a recent issue of the National Rip-Saw Postmaster Crow had a lengthy article in which he made it very plain how the railroads rob the government with their mail contracts, and how congress and the postoffice officials help the railroads pull off these robberies.

It is surprising to me that Mr. Crow is not ousted from office, for he gives the figures as taken from the government reports, and his indictment is strong and convincing. He proves that the people could have a better mail service at half the cost if the thieves were shut out.

In the last issue of the Pemiscot Argus Mr. Crow has an article in which he gets at the milk in the coconut. It is the same story the Kicker has repeatedly told you—too many lawyers in our legislative bodies, while farmers and laborers are not represented at all. He writes:

"There are 286 Congressmen in the U. S., and 90 U. S. Senators, of which numbers there are 261 Congressmen that are lawyers and 69 U. S. Senators that are lawyers as against 12 Congressmen that are farmers and three U. S. Senators that are farmers. One lawyer out of every 346 lawyers in the U. S., is either a Congressman or a Senator while only one out of every 70,000 farmers in the U. S., is in either the senate or congress. Why is it thus? Can it be that the farmers think that the lawyers can and will represent them better than men of their own occupation can, or is it that they think a farmer is too ignorant to fill the place of a Congressman or Senator? Can the farmers ever hope for relief at the hands of Congress so long as their number in Congress is so far outnumbered by lawyers and men of other occupations? What use would we have for a lawyer, banker, editor, manufacturer or men of other occupations if we did not have the farmers to furnish us with the bread of life? Since the farmer is the all important factor in the government why should he not be the all important factor in ruling this government, and in making the laws?"

Of course Mr. Crow gets his figures from U. S. reports and therefore says there are twelve farmers in Congress and three in the Senate. In fact, there is not a farmer nor laborer in either branch of the national legislature. The men who give their occupation as farmers are such as John E. Marshall or Wm. Hunter, whose interests are not at all identical with those who actually pull the bell cords over old Beck.

DESTROYING FAMILIES.

At the approaching term of our circuit court some sixty odd people are billed to be "spliced." That is to say, more than thirty divorce cases are on the docket to be pulled off. A like number of cases are docketed at every term of court. In other words, about two families in every one hundred conclude to quit trying to live as husband and wife—father and mother.

And Scott county is no worse than other counties. The thing is general. And the discontented are not Socialists—but Democrats and Republicans. And nobody has a remedy to offer—except to enact more stringent divorce laws!

And the men responsible for these condition howl that Socialism would destroy the home—the family!

Well, Socialism would destroy SOME families. It would put out of business the families that make a specialty of monkey suppers and dog banquets. Perhaps that is why the "let well enough alone" fellows don't want any change. It might interfere with the happiness of their dogs and monkeys.

JUST PLAIN AMERICANS.

Oh, no, we are not in Russia. We are in free America. No Czars, and Emperors and Kings bother us. But we are so much like monkeys that we can't help aping after the old tyrants. Last Monday President Roosevelt visited Canton, Ohio, to take part in the dedication of the McKinley monument. A press dispatch announcing the event says:

"Two thousand federal troops will be in Canton, reinforced by 2,000 members of the Ohio National Guard. Soldiers will line the route of the parade and protect the president, aided by police and secret service officials. Suspicious persons will be arrested on sight and allowed to explain after the president leaves Canton. Details of detectives from all the large cities in the middle west will be present."

Yes, 4000 soldiers and details of detectives were present to protect the president. It was a spectacle that would have caused the Czar of Russia to turn green with envy.

WM. BELT NOT GUILTY.

For six months Wm. Belt, a poor, ignorant boy whose home is in Illinois, was incarcerated in the county jail without just cause. He was given a hearing last Saturday and set free.

As stated in last week's Kicker, young Belt worked here last fall and bought a horse from A. M. Sanders, of Blodgett. A mortgage was taken for a balance due. Information given by Attorney McWilliams was that the mortgage was not recorded, but this a mistake. He found it later.

The facts, as developed at the trial, show that young Belt can neither read nor write, and his father says he will not be of age until August 1908. He was paid \$15 by Mr. Sanders for the horse—\$15 later on. The mortgage was produced, but the boy says he never put his mark to it. He said he signed a paper that looked like a note. Mr. Sanders said he did sign the mortgage.

However that may be, Belt is a minor and he evidently does not know the nature of a mortgage. He owed a balance of \$15 on the horse when he received word, last fall, that his mother was dangerously ill.

Wishing to go to his sick mother he took the horse to Mr. Sanders and asked him to take the horse back and give him, Belt, \$15—that he was willing to lose \$10. Mr. Sanders refused. Then Belt sold the horse to a Mr. Budhacker for \$19 and went to his mother.

The mother had quite a spell, and after her recovery the father took sick and the boy remained home all winter. In the spring he came back, went to work and was arrested for selling mortgaged property and had been in jail ever since until Saturday. And there is no telling what would have happened to this young "outlaw" if his father had not been able to come here and secure justice for him.

"I am a hard-working man," said his father to the Kicker Saturday. "and this has cost me about \$50. I have paid all bills except that I owe my attorney two dollars. I had to keep a little back to go home on, but he's sure to get that."

Now, I do not want to be understood as blaming anybody in particular for this, for it is common everywhere. It is the custom. The chattel mortgage law is the most sacred of all laws among the ruling class. It has got the pawn-shop keeper skinned a mile. During tight times—especially in the spring—you can find described on the mortgage records of this county nearly every horse, cow, calf, pig, wagon or buggy in the county belonging to the tenant class. These have been "pawned."

But that is not what I am driving at. Here is a young lad just blooming into manhood. As a starter he gets six months in jail for no offense—so the court said Saturday. Is that the way to make good citizens? This boy did not know his rights. He did not know the nature of a mortgage—and if he had would he not have known that a contract with a minor is illegal? This thing of poking money in jail because they have neither money nor a "pull" is entirely too common everywhere! H. Clay Pierce, a millionaire, is wanted down in Texas to answer a charge of perjury. Why don't they get HIM!

Prosecuting attorneys seem to think it is their duty to convict every person that is brought into court. My idea about a prosecuting attorney is that he is (or should be) as much the attorney of the accused as of the state—in that no citizen shall be unjustly harassed or deprived of his liberty.

The cost to the tax-payers in the Belt case exceeds \$100. And all this to emphasize the sacredness of the holy chattel mortgage law!

A STUBBORN FACT.

"Isn't it a little funny that all Christian nations depend more on battle ships than on prayer?" asks the National Rip-Saw.

Whether "funny" or not, it is a stubborn fact that all so-called Christian nations spend more money for battle ships and munitions of war than for schools. With their battle ships and guns and missionaries and bibles and booze they go skylarking about "converting the heathens." And by the time they have the poor heathen "converted" he is either dead or propertyless. If he refuses to look pleasant while he is being held up he gets a Christian bullet to quiet him.

UNCLE ELI AGAIN.

In his last issue Uncle Eli Ake jumps on the Kicker all spraddled out. As I have said before, when you want an organ-grinder to get busy, all you have to do is to say something about "the ring." In my comment on the unpardonable assault upon an editor 73 years old by a county official of 36, I did not mention Ake nor the Register. But I didn't have to. It was sufficient to say "the ring." That seems to include both.

Uncle Eli's reply is very convincing—containing the regulation "argument." It consists chiefly of "you're a liar," and "you're only mad because I am, and you are not, let in on the county graft." That is the sum total of his argument. It is a very typical Republican or Democratic argument.

In defense of the county court giving him the county printing at two prices he says the Enterprise accused the court of being corrupt and therefore Judge Buford said to the editor "you can have no printing with my consent." Hence, if a newspaper expects county printing in Iron county the editor must be careful about what he prints about the officials. And it is so everywhere where a ring exists. But the unpleasant part about it is that the tax-payers suffer. It is their money that pays for the public printing. Suppose, Uncle Eli, that your county had a bridge to build and the law required the building to be let to the best advantage, would your court be justified in paying you \$1,000 for doing the work if I, a competent bidder, had offered to do it for \$500—although I might have questioned the honesty of the court? Have public officials the right to "get even" at public expense?

As for his bank getting the county money at less than half what another bank had offered, he offers quite a satisfactory explanation. He says the other bank was barely established "having a counter in a fenced-off corner of a hardware store."

That is a corker. What matters it how long the bank has been established, nor where it is located, so long as it is authorized to do business by the state and can fill the required bonds? The Benton bank was awarded the county funds before it had really opened for business at all.

But there never was an offense committed that the perpetrator could not offer some excuse for its commission. And none could be more flimsy than the excuses offered by the Register. But I presume Uncle Eli did his best.

Business Locals.

Strayed—A red heifer, year old last winter, swallow-fork in right ear and crop off left. Reward, \$5. O. Finley, Benton, Mo. (47-4t).

LOST—At Oran picnic on the Fair Grounds or on the road to the Fair Grounds, September 4, 1907, ladies gold watch and chandelier pin. Watch—closed case—with designs of birds on both sides of case and carved all over case. Liberal reward. Finder please return to Emil Schott, Chaffee, Mo., Kicker Office, or Oran Postoffice. (46-4t).

For Sale—500 or 600 bushels of good corn at 52½¢ at the crib. Andrew Robert, Benton Mo.

For Sale—The Kicker ponies. Splendid drivers. Perfect matches. Gentle—Mrs. Hahner drives them anywhere. With buggy and harness, \$350. Seldom drive out and have no other use for them. Is any reason for selling. The buggy is a good one.

For Sale—500 brick, Kicker. Threshed pea hay at 35 cents a bale. T. J. Ditterline, four miles west of Commerce. 45-tf.

For Sale—One registered Short-horn bull. Will be three years old in December. A sure breeder and good disposition. Reason for selling—I cannot use him longer in my herd. Call on, or address, J. C. Sanders, Oran, Mo. 44-tf.

For Sale—Several first class single and double burner gasoline lamps. Reason for selling—will put in acetylene lights. Also two 30-inch King heaters. Cheap. The Kicker.

For Rent or Sale—A 220 acre farm; nearly 200 acres in cultivation; located four miles south of Benton. Apply to N. B. Cavanaugh, Diehlstadt, Mo. 44-tf.

If you wish to buy or sell real estate in Scott county it will pay you to consult D. H. Harper, Oran \$50 REWARD.—We will pay a \$50 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone guilty of stealing stock belonging to any of our members.

Stockmen's Union, Vanduser, Mo.

When you help the Kicker you help yourself, Mr. Producer. Do you see the point?

CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE.

The great democratic victory in Oklahoma last week proves conclusively that the people are tired of graft and grafters.—Marble Hill Press.

Will this rule work both ways—or only one way? Was the Republican victory in Missouri three years ago also proof that "the people are tired of graft and grafters?" You couldn't afford to say so, could you? It might "hurt the party!"

The truth is that there has been unrest among the people for ten years. Republican states go Democratic and Democratic states go Republican—and the result remains the same. Honestly, but blindly, the people have tried to throw off the yoke, with the result that they are beginning to discover that it is not in the party, but in the system. And when they once understand this, then the rest will be easy.

Some time ago an ex-official said to me, "What would you do if you were elected to office?" He seemed surprised when I answered, "Why, I couldn't do a thing more than any other honest official is doing under existing laws and conditions. Before any relief can come to the producers they must be able to elect enough men to represent them in the legislatures and in congress to wipe out this special privilege system and substitute for it equal rights for all."

This would mean a change. To try to patch up a rotten system by "regulation" is all nonsense. The people are ready for the change, and as fast as they can be educated to a system of justice they are drifting away from the old rotten parties.

The farmer's wife must be a little careful. The pure food law reaches her, and is more likely to be enforced against her than against the meat trust. Here it is: "It shall be unlawful for a person, firm or corporation to sell or offer for sale eggs after the same have been in an incubator or to sell or offer for sale eggs in a decaying or rotten condition to be used as food. It shall be the duty of all peace and health officers to seize all eggs found to be unwholesome which are intended for sale or offered for sale as human food. Any person, firm or corporation found guilty of violating the provisions of this act shall be fined not less than \$10 or more than \$100 for each offense."

It will be about a month before my building is completed, and just now I am being most gloriously held up by the lumber trust, the glass trust, the iron and other trusts, but the worst is about over. And the unpleasant part about it is that my process of getting even is so slow. What I need now is a ballot job or a ditch notice at "legal rates."

More humanity and less alleged Christianity would go a long way toward universal happiness in this world where we are taught that to compete and fight is the one thing necessary to success.

THE SOUTHEAST.

Fredericktown Democrat-News—The school book trust is working a new graft on the people in counties where the school commissioners did not adopt a new set of school books for use in the public schools. The new graft is, books that were in use in the schools last year have been "revised" by the trust this year which makes the old books useless and new ones have to be bought by the parents of the children who attend school. It is the same old book trust "revised;" in other words it is just one more scheme to fatten their dividends out of the pockets of the people who patronize the public schools.

R. P. Montgomery, an Essex lawyer, was shot and killed at his office in the presence of his wife and child by Greenfield Crow, an old and reputable citizen, last week. It is said that the lawyer (who was not a Socialist) ruined Crow's daughter and that Crow warned the lawyer to cease his attentions to the daughter. Last week the lawyer (who had a wife and child) and the girl started for St. Louis and at Dexter the lawyer passed the girl off as his niece. Crow surrendered and was released on bond.

Cape Girardeau Republican—One of the officials of the Houck road-to-day informed The Daily Republican that the work of clearing the right of way for the line from this city to Anell, on the Cotton Belt, near Illinois, would be completed within a week and that the task of laying the rails would then begin. It is hoped to have the road completed in November. When this line is completed work will be started on the line to the Thebes bridge, making two lines from this city to the Cotton Belt.

Charleston Republican—A "hoater" was taken from the river near Thompson's Bend Tuesday morning, which had evidently been submerged for a good many days. It was that of a man in working garb, two pairs of overalls among the rest. In the pockets were \$500 in bills and 25 cents in silver. Also a receipt for road work and one for postoffice box rent issued at Siegfried, Pa., to Herman Hoffman. Judge Fred Browning held an inquest, at which the above facts were elicited.

Iron county is soon to vote on local option. You can depend on the "official organ" being with the booze joints. The "party" the organ and the saloons—three in one—always stand together. And it is a hard combination to down. But the people have been very successful this year.

St. Mary's has always been a wide open town. But of late the Catholic priest has undertaken to

have the liquor law enforced, with the result that the priest is about to discover that the saloons are more powerful than the church.

It is a nice story that comes from Idaho. Those respectable and desirable citizens who tried to destroy the "undesirable" officials of the Western Federation of Miners are a sweet lot. Although dead—ex-Gov. Steunenburg is charged in an indictment with Senator Borah as being the head thief among the land and timber thieves.

At the burlesque parade during the Sikeston Horse Show Dr. J. A. Folsom was awarded the prize. The Governor says: "He represented Grover Cleveland and family broken in health and enroute to Schuemer Springs in search of what he had lost; when they returned they were restored to health and looking buxom. It was the best burlesque we have ever seen. Dr. Folsom is a cousin of Mrs. Grover Cleveland."

They have been trying to prove that Senator Borah, one of the prosecuting lawyers in the Haywood case, is a land and timber thief. Why don't Borah and Gooding and McPartland get Orchard to confess that he stole the land and timber and that he did it as the paid agent of the Western Federation of Miners?

*Correspondents must overlook neglect on my part at this time. I am so busy trying to build and run a newspaper at the same time that I cannot give satisfaction to either. Requests for supplies will be attended to at the first spare moment.

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS.

From the Popular Bill of Rights.
Food Inspector, Dr. B. C. Jones has returned from his second inspection trip in this district, and in speaking of the importance of the work, he said it embraced much more than one would really think and that many people were today eating food stuff they would not touch if they really knew how it was prepared and compounded. He said further, that people in the commercial world were often giving short weight or shy measure in packages or otherwise, and that the sooner factories, wholesalers, jobbers and retailers learned that a pound meant 16 ounces, and that a sack of chips containing ninety pounds and marked 100 is a positive violation of the law, the sooner things will get better.

LECTURE.

Rev. Whitfield will give his humorous lecture, "Mississippi Sunshine," under the auspices of the Teachers' Association on Friday night, October 11. Admission, 25 cents for adults—except teachers. School children free. (46-2t).

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PHIL A. HAFNER, Editor.